

SENATE BILL 919

By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 9, Part 4, relative to motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-414, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) It is unlawful for anyone to install, maintain or exhibit blue flashing emergency lights or blue flashing emergency lights in combination with red flashing emergency lights, except full-time, salaried, law enforcement officers of the state, county, or city and municipal governments of the state, and commissioned members of the Tennessee bureau of investigation when their official duties so require as defined by §§ 38-8-106 and 38-8-107.

(2) For purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" means a person who is a full-time employee of the state in a position authorized by the laws of the state to carry a firearm and to make arrests for violations of some or all of the laws of this state, or a full-time police officer or deputy sheriff who has been certified by the peace officer standards and training commission. It does not mean employees, personnel or officers of civil defense or emergency management agencies of the state, county, or city and municipal governments of the state.

(3) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-414, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting instead the following:

(c) The prohibition of subsection (a) does not apply to official motor vehicles of the sheriff's office being operated by reserve or auxiliary deputy sheriffs duly authorized by the sheriff and appointed pursuant to title 8, chapter 20, and qualified pursuant to title 38, chapter 8. Such reserve or auxiliary officers operating official motor vehicles shall be in uniform and carry appropriate identification issued by the sheriff.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.